



San Diego Cherokee Community Newsletter

Issue 20

www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com

Summer, 2010

In this Issue:

1. **Cherokee Winds.** The May picnic was a great cultural experience for those who braved the cold May winds at Lake Murray.
2. **Council Election Results**
3. Save **Oct 30/31** for the **Fall Picnic.**
4. Remembering **Steven Henshaw**
5. Oklahoma bound members.
6. Great Networking News from the Lake Murray Picnic
7. Plan to attend the **National Holiday**
8. Getting your **Cherokee Registration**
9. Send us your stories and pictures for future newsletters.



Cherokee Winds

The winds gusted relentlessly all day that Sunday in May for the SDCC Community Meeting and potluck picnic at Lake Murray. Wynona got there early and staked out the most protected site, but even with the trees for protection the winds were cool and gusty. The days before and after were both warm and not so windy, so we were just not very lucky.





When the sun was out, and between gusts of wind, it was not too bad.

Thanks to all who brought dishes for the potluck lunch. We had plenty of chicken and potatoe salad, and left over peach cobbler, but only because we could not eat another bite.



And Kandi gave the dessert tray her best effort.



Officer Phil led off the program with announcements and a tribute to Wilma

Mankiller, the first and only woman chief of the Cherokee Nation. Several



of the folks in attendance had met her or seen her in action and shared that experience. Our communication wires had gotten crossed, or never connected, so we did not know exactly what time our guest speaker was due to arrive at the Lake.

After his self-guided tour of San Diego trying to find Lake Murray, Ryan Mackey did arrive at the picnic, and his recap of the history of the Cherokee spiritual beliefs was outstanding.



Ryan spoke for over two hours. He explained the history of the Cherokee Nation and how it related to the religious practices, leading up to how the religion is practiced today at the various Stomp Grounds in the Cherokee Nation.



The ceremonies are all done in the Cherokee language, with many of the key words and concepts being based on the Cherokee words and their meaning, which are often not a one-to-one translation of English words. So, having some knowledge of the language is important for truly understanding the ceremonies. The finale was when Ryan led our group in an actual stomp dance.

The details of Ryan's presentation are beyond the scope of this newsletter, but there are numerous articles on the internet, such as http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stomp_dance which are not in general disagreement with what he described.

Any SDCC members who are headed for Oklahoma may contact Ryan to see what is on the Kenwood ceremonial ground's calendar. He explicitly invited any of us who are in that area to attend his ceremonial grounds as his guests any time they have a ceremony. Ryan can be reached at:

Ryan Mackey
Language Curriculum Specialist
PO Box 948
Tahlequah, OK, 74465-0948
email: ryan-mackey@cherokee.org

The meeting concluded with our traditional raffle of Cherokee related prizes.



Several people took home hand painted tiles from the Cherokee Nation Gift Shop in Tahlequah. The most popular prize, though less expensive than some of the others, was the Cherokee Nation car license plate frame. Buddy Wilkerson and Michelle Marron both won frames in the raffle.



Please join us for the next SDCC event.
You must be present to win!!!

Council Election Completed

The Council elections were completed and the ballots counted at the May picnic. Congratulations to Phil Konstantin and George Lynch who were re-elected for two year terms on the Council. And congratulations to Phil Powers who was elected as a write-in candidate and has agreed to serve on the Council. We had several Council seats vacated this year due to moving out of the area, other job conflicts, and fatigue. As a result, we still have two more vacancies for Community Members to join the Council. Council participation involves attending a few meetings per year to review and decide any issues facing the Community, and planning the events that are held during the year. We are particularly interested in having you join the Council if you have enthusiasm, energy, and new ideas about how to make our Community meetings more interesting and vibrant, and if you have a particular interest in writing newsletter articles, planning specific events, or creating Facebook and Twitter communities. Cherokee Nation citizenship is desirable but not required. To express your interest to serve, or to ask questions about serving on the Council, reply via email to SanDiegoCherokeeCommunity@yahoo.com. If you are not sure, or have questions about how you can contribute, call George Lynch at 760-489-1836 for some live conversation rather than emails and websites.

According to our By-Laws, Council vacancies not filled by the election can be filled by the Council until the next election. We hope you will consider supporting your Cherokee Community by serving on the Council for at least a year.

More information can always be found on the SDCC website:
www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com

Date Set for Fall Picnic

We have heard from the office of Chief Chad Smith that he will be available to attend our Fall picnic in San Diego on Sunday, **October 31**. Mark your calendar now to attend the Picnic in San Diego that weekend. The Council will go to work on making plans for that event. Details will be in future newsletters and on the website as the date approaches.

Remembering Steven Henshaw

We are saddened to report that Steven Henshaw passed away during the night of June 10-11. Although blind, Steve had attended several SDCC events over the last few years. You may recall that Steve and his twin brother Mel attended the Fall Picnic last year, pictured below with Chief Smith, and Steve had occasionally played his flute at recent picnics. Both Steve and Mel had planned to attend the recent picnic at

Lake Murray, but Steve had to cancel at the last minute due to health issues.



Mel, Chief Smith, and Steve at the 2009 Fall Picnic

Our condolences to Steve's twin brother, Mel, and his wife, Lesley.

Oklahoma Bound SDCC Members

We bid Farewell to active SDCC Members Marsha, Kandi, and Jim West. With Jim's recent retirement they are moving back to Oklahoma in the Cherokee Nation. Their intention is to find a home-site on one of the Oklahoma lakes for their retirement. Kandi will be starting college in the Fall.



Jim, Marsha, and Kandi West

Marsha and Kandi were enthusiastic basket weavers at our basket weaving event last year, sorta, though neither were long on patience.



We will also miss Jim's contribution as the one who took home the three heavy cast-iron cooking pots from the hog fry last year. Once Marsha and Jim are settled in an Oklahoma lake front home, we are all invited to visit. Best wishes to Marsha, Kandi, and Jim.

Great Networking News

The Lake Murray Picnic was the first SDCC event for new member Stephany Hamrell. Stephany is a program coordinator at the Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma at Alliant International University, San Diego campus. One of her projects at that time was a case related to an unhealthy home situation for a local Indian child. Some of the challenges that she was dealing with included navigating the politics and players of a band of a local San Diego County Indian tribe. When at the picnic

Phil Powers had introduced himself as having retired from a career at the Indian Child Protection Agency, Stephany recognized a rich professional resource. After contacting a SDCC Council member to get Phil's phone number, she invited him to consult with the Institute's case manager, who was new to Indian Country. What followed was a discussion of the history and specific issues of the local tribes from Phil's experience. While the case did not wind up proceeding for other reasons, the background and education Phil provided were very helpful to the process.

We are all pleased that SDCC meetings have been able to bring together members who benefit from meeting other community members. Phil Konstantin tells the story of members discovering distant relatives when they find that they have a common relative in their ancestries. Perhaps you can too, but you must be present to win!!

Plan to Attend the 2010 Cherokee National Holiday

Do you have plans to be in the Oklahoma area about the time of Labor Day next month? If so, there is no richer Cherokee experience than attending the Cherokee National Holiday which will be Sept 3-5 this year. Be on hand to see the parade, State of the Nation Address by the Chief, Cherokee cooking, crafts, and games. All those events as well as visiting the Cultural Heritage Center and museums make it a profound experience. All the details are available at: <http://holiday.cherokee.org/> which will be updated as the date gets closer.

If you are planning to be there, send an email to our Council Representatives, Julia Coates (jmcoates@ucdavis.edu) and Jack Baker and see if there are special events they can invite you to. Julia got several of us into a ceremonial ground when we were there a couple years ago. You may also contact Ryan Mackey (see the story above) to see if there is a stomp dance at the Kenwood Ceremonial Grounds when you are there.

As long as you are in the area, consider visiting the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa <http://www.gilcrease.org/> and the Wolaroc Museum southwest of Bartlesville. <http://www.wolaroc.org/>

Both museums have outstanding collections of Native American art and relics, including some Cherokee displays.

Getting Your Cherokee Registration

We have received a question about how to get your Cherokee Nation membership registration. From the Cherokee Nation website: "To be eligible for CDIB/Tribal Citizenship with the Cherokee Nation, you must be able to provide documents that connect you to an enrolled lineal ancestor, who is listed on the (DAWES ROLL) FINAL ROLLS OF CITIZENS AND FREEDMEN OF THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES, Cherokee Nation with a blood degree. This roll was taken between 1899-1906 of Citizens and Freedmen residing in Indian Territory (now NE Oklahoma).

Many applicants do not qualify for CDIB/Citizenship as their ancestors did not meet the enrollment requirements and were not enrolled. Certain requirements had to be met in order to be placed on the Dawes Roll.”

You can check the Dawes Roll at:
www.accessgenealogy.com/native/finalroll.php

If the latter applies to you, (being of Cherokee descent but not able to prove your linkage to an enrollee on the Dawes Roll), we recommend documenting your heritage in other ways so that it is not lost with the passage of time and generations. And you do not need to be a member of the Cherokee Nation to be able to attend SDCC events.

If you can prove your ancestral linkage to a person listed on the Dawes Roll, then proceed to fill out the application at:
http://www.cherokee.org/docs/registration/Cherokee_Registration.pdf .

If you have any difficulties printing those forms, send an email back to us at: sdccnewsletter@yahoo.com or call George at 760-489-1836 and we will mail you those forms. If you have any questions not answered on the forms or the Registration website at: <http://www.cherokee.org/Services/Registration/default.aspx> , please email or call the same number. Several members of

the SDCC have experience working with genealogy and Cherokee Registration and would be happy to consult with you.

Be forewarned that the Registration office in Tahlequah has a heavy backlog of applications and is only now reviewing applications that were submitted in early calendar year 2009, about 18 months after submission. Therefore, we suggest getting your application reviewed and typographically perfect before sending it in. Submitting it without all the specified records could be the beginning of a very long process.

If you need any help, send an email to sdccnewsletter@yahoo.com and we will find someone who can help.

Call for Newsletter Materials

Do you have stories in your family or from your grandparents et al about their Cherokee lives and experiences? If so, please provide them to the SDCC Newsletter so that we can share them with our Community.

Send your stories about your Cherokee experiences and activities to SDCCNewsletter@yahoo.com .

Wado,
George Lynch, 2010 Newsletter Editor

